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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/001,324

11/23/2001

Tadashi Ichida

SIC-01-007

3390

7590

07/21/2006

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, VICKY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Arguments

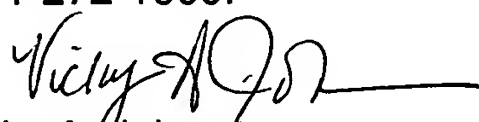
This letter is sent to acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief filed May 30, 2006.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6217. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Vicky A. Johnson
Primary Examiner 7/17/06
Art Unit 3682

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. SIC-01-007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:) Examiner: V. Johnson
TADASHI ICHIDA)
Application No.: 10/001,324) Art Unit: 3682
Filed: November 23, 2001)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR) REPLY BRIEF
SHIFITNG A BICYCLE)
TRANSMISSION)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Commissioner:

This is a reply brief for the above-captioned matter.

As noted previously, the only reason why Browning moves to a destination gear ratio other than the requested gear ratio is to avoid an illegal destination gear. The Appellant submits that, once it is decided not to implement the concept of illegal gears, as recited in independent claims 1 and 20, then any reason to move to a destination gear other than the one requested vanishes.

Furthermore, while the Appellant already took issue with the statement that "the omission of a step or element is obvious if the function is not desired," it also should be noted that not one exemplary environment was provided where the concept of legal gears is *not* desired. Browning actually teaches away from the proposed modification because of the undesirable effect an illegal gear has on the rider while pedaling.

As for the disputed text at column 3, lines 24-28 of Colbert, et al, it is the examiner that maintains that column 3, lines 24-28 of Colbert, et al. provides support for the position that the provision of a speed sensor and an automatic shift control unit improves efficiency. The cited text